

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 21, 2010, Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the rejections based upon the claim amendments and arguments submitted herewith. Claims 1 and 3-23 were presented for examination, of which claims 1 and 18-20 were rejected, with the following issues being raised:

1. Claims 1 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,851,279 to Bäßler ("Bäßler") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,768,555 to Chen et al. ("Chen"); and
2. Claim 8 was objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but otherwise being directed toward allowable subject matter.

Claims 3-7, 9-17, and 21-23 were indicated as being allowed.

Following the above amendments to the claims, claims 1 and 3-7 and 9-23 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, and 9 being independent. As indicated, claim 8 has been canceled, and the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to better clarify the subject matter being claimed. The amendment finds support at least in claim 4 as originally filed.

In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the anticipation rejection to claims 1 and 18-20 is rendered moot, and that all claims remaining in the application are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believes no extensions or fees are due with this response. However, if an extension is needed or a fee is due, please consider this a request therefor and charge Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 30075-00004, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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